



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, September 19, 2024
Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom
Guam Judicial Center**

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Hon. Robert J. Torres
Chairman

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
Member

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzone
Member

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Advisory Committee Members:

Hon. Arthur R. Barcinas

Hon. Vernon P. Perez

Hon. Elyze M. Iriarte

Hon. Dana A. Gutierrez

Hon. Alberto E. Tolentino

Atty. Jacqueline T. Terlaje

Atty. Frederick J. Horecky

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Administrator of the Courts:
Danielle T. Rosete

Judicial Council Secretary:
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:
Petrina M. Ula

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chairman, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, at the hour of 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres (VIA Zoom)
Justice F. Philip Carbullido (VIA Zoom)
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III (VIA Zoom)
Judge Maria T. Cenzone (VIA Zoom)

Also present via Zoom:

Judge John C. Terlaje
Attorney Dean A. Manglona, Guam Bar Association, Advisory Committee Member
Administrative Hearing Officer Kristina L. Baird
Ms. Barbara Jean T. Perez, Human Resources Administrator
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court
Ms. Janice Camacho Perez, Clerk of Court, Superior Court
Ms. Valerie D. Tenorio, Chief Deputy Clerk
Ms. Geraldine A. Cepeda, Compiler of Laws
Ms. Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Office of Regulation Counsel

Also present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Ma. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator
Ms. Dawn R.S. Blas, Judicial Educator
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy Planning & Community Relations
Ms. Rohnda Calvo, Deputy Human Resources Administrator
Ms. Sonda L. Yatar, Acting Marshal of the Courts
Ms. Rosanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief Probation Officer
Mr. Carl V. Dominguez, Procurement and Facilities Management Administrator
Ms. Suzane P. Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney
Mr. Andrew T. Perez, Staff Attorney
Ms. Melissa M. Casil, Client Services and Family Counseling Division Administrator

Ms. Trisha Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator
Mr. Robert S. Rabago, Management Information Systems Administrator
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff
Ms. Petrina M. Ula, Judicial Assistant, Judicial Council Assistant Secretary
Ms. Jessica J. Perez-Jackson, Administrative Services Officer, Judicial Council Secretary

II. PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING

Due publication of the five-day Notices of Meeting of the Judicial Council, as required under the Open Government Law, was published in the Guam Daily Post. Acknowledgments are on file.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chief Justice Torres began the roll call. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Judge Maria T. Censon identified themselves. Chief Justice Torres remarked that Justice Katherina A. Maraman is excused from today's meeting and will not be attending. This meeting determined a quorum with 4 (four) of the five Judicial Council members present.

IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: August 15, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena made a motion, Judge Censon seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called an oral vote. With no discussion, four of the five Judicial Council members voted to approve the minutes, subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY24 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin addressed the Council regarding the collection of allotments for general operations as specified under Public Law 37-42, Chapter 4. It was reported that all appropriated funds for FY 2024 have been received, with the most recent allotment deposited on Monday, September 16th.

B. Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts, provided an update on several capital improvement projects:

- **Guam Historic Courthouse:** The occupancy permit has been obtained, and the move into the building has begun. Over the next few weeks, probation staff will be relocated

in phases to avoid service interruptions. Notices will be provided to the public, defendants, and the Guam Bar Association regarding services resuming at the courthouse.

- **Clerk's Office and Financial Area Renovation:** The renovation of the counters on the first floor is ongoing. The area by the cashier and self-represented litigant kiosk is complete, and work is progressing on the clerk's office counters, with completion expected in the coming weeks.
- **Skylight Project:** The vendor is currently working on the design for hardening the skylight.
- **New Permanent Generator for Guam Judicial Center:** The bid process for purchasing the generator will begin soon, along with design planning for its installation, based on the assessment completed in December 2023.

C. eCourts and eSupervision Transition

Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts, provided an update on the transition and implementation of e-Court and e-Supervision:

- **Document Templates:** Templates for documents automatically generated from JustWare have been received by Journal, and their functionality is being developed in the eCourt environment.
- **Report Generation and Search Function:** Artifacts for these features have been received and are currently in the development and testing phases.

Progress continues steadily, with weekly meetings and follow-up discussions involving subject matter experts. The transition is anticipated soon, and the speaker welcomed any questions from the Council.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report on FY 2025 Budget:

Chief Justice Torres shared that FY 2025 Budget Bill was passed by the Legislature, and the Judiciary's appropriation closely aligns with the requested amount and provides adequate funding to meet its needs. The budget is considered fair.

According to Chief Justice Torres, the bill extends the statutory deadline for the Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission and fully funds the Commission, enabling it to continue its important work. The total general fund appropriation for the Judiciary is just

over \$44 million, which includes \$868,157 for electronic monitoring funding for the Commission, and general operations.

Chief Justice Torres expressed appreciation to the senators for their continued support.

B. FY 2025 Health Insurance Rates (For informational purposes only)

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin reported on the FY 2025 group health insurance open enrollment:

- On September 9, the Human Resources Administrator issued a memo regarding the open enrollment period, which will run from September 10 to September 25.
- During this time, service providers will host presentations for employees.
- The new bi-weekly employee contribution rates will take effect on October 1 and will be reflected in the pay period ending October 5.
- For the upcoming enrollment year, in accordance with 4 GCA §4302(c)(9), the judiciary will continue to offer two health insurance providers: TakeCare and SelectCare.
- A cost-benefit analysis shows that the judiciary saves approximately \$700,000 annually by procuring its own insurance plans, separate from the government-wide plan.

C. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, October 17, 2024)

Chief Justice Torres noted that the Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Danielle Rosete congratulated the newly elected officers of the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC), acknowledging Chief Justice Torres as the new President, Justice John Manglona from the CNMI Supreme Court as Vice President, Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw from the Yap State Court as Secretary, and Presiding Judge Lamorena as Treasurer.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Guam Bar Association Board (GBA) – President's Report

No report.

B. Court Employees Association

Jesse Franquez, president of the employees' association, provided updates:

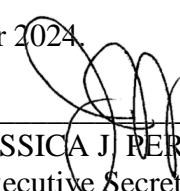
- A second order for T-shirts, polo shirts, and dry-fit shirts was placed in September due to popular demand, and pending items from the first order will be arriving soon.
- The date of the Christmas party has been moved to Saturday, January 11, to accommodate members' schedules. The theme will be "Under the Sea," and attendees are encouraged to dress accordingly.
- IFIK is planning upcoming fundraisers, including a potential golf tournament. Weekly bake sales, which have been raising \$400 to \$600 per event.

Franquez expressed appreciation for the continued support and welcomed any questions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until October 17, 2024. Judge Cenzone seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of October 2024.



JESSICA J. PEREZ-JACKSON
Executive Secretary
Judicial Council of Guam

As set out above, the Minutes of the September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting.



ROBERT J. TORRES
Chair